

TOPICS IN CALIFORNIA.

THE ADVANCE GUARD OF YUKON PROSPECTORS—THE LONG DROUGHT BROKEN IN THE NORTHERN COUNTIES.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 12.—Those who predicted last fall that the rush to Klondike this spring would surpass all mining stampedes in this country and Australia have already proved themselves true prophets, for the advance guard of Yukon prospectors is so large that steamship companies here and at Seattle are unable to handle more than half of those who clamor for passage.

There will be ample accommodations by May, when the Yukon River navigation opens, but owners of steamers in New-York made a great mistake in not sending out vessels last month, so that they could have been here to take advantage of the early rush over Chilkoot and White passes. The steamers Illinois, Ohio and Conemaugh are expected here by May, and many of the vessels which are bringing special expeditions will arrive in April. Passenger boats are urgently needed now that will carry the hordes of prospectors from here and Puget Sound ports to Dyea and Skagway, where they may take trains for the lakes and the Yukon River. Every old craft that can be pressed into service is used already, and as this northern route is subject to fierce storms in the early spring there is danger of bad disasters from overcrowded and unseaworthy vessels. Offers were made to the Hawaiian Inter-Island Steamship Company to charter some of its vessels at a high figure, but the company refused, because the movement of the sugar crop required all of its steamers.

Unless there is delay in awarding the contract for building, the Government will have a new revenue cutter for the Yukon River by the time ice goes out in May. Forty thousand dollars has been appropriated, and Captain C. L. Hooper, of the revenue construction service, has charge of the plans. The boat will be built to resist the ice jam, and as the engines will be strong it ought to be of great service in the relief of vessels in danger of being frozen in next fall or steamers that may be stranded on the sandbars.

The long drought was broken early this week by good showers in the northern and central counties, which will bring up the grain and revive pasture. The rainfall in most places was not more than half an inch, but as the weather was warm and the moisture soaked in the rain did great good. Along the coast below Monterey the country is extremely dry, and unless good rains come within two weeks the grain will be a failure, and the stock will have to be driven to other districts or killed for their hides. The rainfall in most counties is barely half of the customary amount up to this date, and in several coast counties it is only one-third.

The appointment of a guardian for ex-Mayor Adolph Sutro caused much comment this week, as it took the public by surprise. Although those who saw Mr. Sutro realized that his mind was failing, it seemed impossible to realize that he had actually fallen into a second childhood. For twenty years he had been one of the most conspicuous figures in city life, and for the last ten years he had been specially prominent. As Mayor of San Francisco he was a great disappointment, as he possessed few of the qualities of a good executive. Some of his plans were excellent, but he had so many visionary schemes and he was so bitter toward those who honestly opposed him that he soon lost all influence.

Political warfare and worry over private financial affairs induced recent attacks of paralysis, which brought on paresis. It is probable that Mr. Sutro's children will carry out his plans for giving to the city the valuable library which he collected. It is extremely rich in early Americana and in documents pertaining to the discovery and settlement of this coast. Whatever may be said of Mr. Sutro's course in public affairs, he has given more to San Francisco than any other man, not excepting James Lick, and he has done more than any other to develop the suburbs and to make great pleasure grounds at Cliff House.

Captain Worthington, of the British ship Speke, is lamenting his folly in waiting for higher freights. When he reached here wheat charterers were at a premium, but though 40 cents was offered to him to Liverpool he demanded 45. He took the freight and went to San Francisco, but his crew and waited for the expected rise. The ships arrived, however, in large numbers and freight rates, so that now he could not get more than 26 cents after hoarding his crew for months and paying dockage.

At the theatres the only noteworthy feature was the reopening of the Columbia Theatre after the recent fire, with Harry Corson, C. A. and his stock company. W. H. Haines was to direct. The theatre has been prettily decorated, and the opening house was large. Next Monday the Bostonians open at the Baldwin with "The Serenaders." Bertie Patti and her troubadours have made a hit this week at the California Theatre.

It is a curious fact that the retention of McLeavy Brown in charge of the customs service of Corea and the checkmating of the plans of Alexeff, the Russian who had been chosen to oust the British official, was due to an English woman living in San Francisco. She is Mrs. Emma Endres, correspondent of "The London Times." Alexeff came through New-York and Washington without attracting attention, but when he reached here Mrs. Endres found his name in the personal columns of the papers. She knew his position as a Russian financial agent, and promptly cabled the fact to "The Times" that he was here, and had secured passage to Yokohama and from there to Corea. The fact that he came secretly by this roundabout way excited her suspicion, and she suggested investigation. "The Times" conveyed the news to the Government, and thus by liberal use of the cable Great Britain was able to checkmate the Russian's design of ousting McLeavy Brown.

All stocks in the local market are booming. Oceanic Steamship and American Mail, both up 50%, with large sales. Powder stocks were taken up and advanced. Grant Powder advanced 3% points over last week, and Vigorit rose from \$3.75 to \$4.12½ per share. Although the Spring Valley Water Company issued seven thousand new shares of stock, the price remained firm. Hutchinson Sugar Plantation stock had an advance of 4% in the week, advancing from 43¢ to 48, and 2,045 shares were sold. Hawaiian Commercial sold from 33¢ to 35, but broke at the close to 34¢.

NOTES OF THE SEVENTY-FIRST.

COLONEL BUTT AND COLONEL GREENE SMOKE THE PIPE OF PEACE—DRILLS AND REVIEWS.

Colonel F. Vinton Greene of the 7th Regiment has ordered the following battalion drills: Companies B and H, February 21; Companies E, F and K, February 23; Companies D and G, February 24; Companies A, C and I, February 25. Colonel Greene will probably command in all these drills. A regimental review will take place at the armory on the evening of March 1, when the long-service medals will be presented to members who are entitled to receive them, and Company D will receive the Sheridan recruiting trophy. Marksman's badges will be presented on the evening of March 29, when the regiment will be reviewed by a prominent officer.

A notable review took place at the 1st Regiment Armory last week. The 2d Battalion, under Major Smith, assembled for parade and review on Tuesday evening, and, although the command never looked better and never went through the evolutions in a more creditable way, it attracted less attention than the reviewing officer, whose presence at the armory showed that the patch had been buried and that Colonel Butt and Colonel Greene had agreed on the name of the unit, which was to be the 1st Manhattan Horse, after the ceremonies at the armory were over.

About thirty members of Company B attended the review on Wednesday evening, and went to dinner later to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the company. The entertainment was arranged by a committee, of which First Sergeant Frederick Weyman was captain. Zabriskie entertained the shooting team of Company B at the Military Club on Friday evening. This team won the Zabriskie trophy from Company B in the last contest. The following are the members of the shooting team: Captain Lincoln, Lieutenant Lomax and Rockwell, Postmen Maxwell and Pelegue and Privates Poston, Corwin, Moore, Garrigues, McKnight and McDermott.

WHO WILL BE THE BRIGADIERS?

THE CONTEST BETWEEN COLONELS SEWARD AND BUTT IN THE FIRST BRIGADE AND COLONELS GREENE, SMITH AND CHAUNCEY IN THE FIFTH.

Wherever National Guardsmen met yesterday the question: "Who will be the brigadiers?" was discussed, and while many officers look upon the election of Colonel Butt to command the First and Colonel Greene to command the Fifth as "settled and done," there are many who have doubts as to the result of the elections.

The 23d Regiment votes will decide the contest between Colonel Seward and Colonel Butt, but as Lieutenant-Colonel King of that regiment is also a candidate and as he will probably receive the support of his fellow-officers of the 23d, the first ballot in the First Brigade election will probably result in no choice. If the various regiments hold together and the candidates can overcome their modesty sufficiently to vote for themselves, the first ballot will show four votes each for Seward, Butt and King, with Squadron A and the 1st Battery to hear from. The question is, Will any one of the candidates secure four additional votes?

"It will be a bad time for a man to vote for the lone man," said an officer who had a decided preference, "because a complimentary vote given just for fun may do the business." And then he told the story of the College of Cardinals electing a Pope whom nobody considered a formidable candidate. "Everybody voted for him because he had no show, and when the votes were counted the man who had no show got there."

Among the forecasts was one to the effect that at least one vote would be found in the box for General Louis Fitzgerald, and that Captain Wendell would take that means of showing his continued loyalty to his former commander.

On the other side of the city the election will not take place until two weeks after the first ballot has been fought. By the process of elimination the number of candidates in this brigade is reduced to three—Colones Greene, Smith and Chauncey. The man who could probably have it for the asking, Colonel Appleton, has no ambition in that direction.

It is evident that the election of the 5th Regiment will be safe.

Victor Herbert has been appointed conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony, and his duties will begin next winter. It will surely affect his New-York relations, however, as he is frequently absent from the city during a month at a time with his band.

Music concerts are ten in number, and are given weekly in December, January and February.

THE second public rehearsal and concert of the Haarlem Philharmonic Society will take place on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening of this week, the former in the Harlem Opera House, the latter in the Waldorf-Astoria. The programme consists of Cowen's "Scandinavian" symphony, an air from "The Magic Flute" (sung by Miss Macdonald), an excerpt from Humperdinck's "Hänsel und Gretel," music four "American Dances" by Bruno Klein, some songs with piano forte accompaniment (Miss Macdonald), and Dvorak's "Schéhérazade." Mr. Henry Thomas Fleck, who is conductor of the society, has appended a note to the announcement of the Humperdinck music to the announcement of the Humperdinck music which calls for an explanation. He does not say whether it is one of the pieces of between-acts music or the overture that is to be played, but implies that it is the latter, for he says: "In justice to the Haarlem Philharmonic Society, it should be stated that, although this number had appeared on other programmes, it was first performed at one of the regular concerts given in the winter last season." The allusion seems to be to the announcement by the Haarlem Society of the overture, which was down for the first concert, but the music which is still in manuscript, we believe, not arriving in time, was postponed till the fourth concert to be given this winter, and will not have been sung by Mr. Fleck last season, for the simple reason that it had not been produced by the composer. If the allusion is to the between-acts music, it is superfluous, for that has ceased to be a novelty. It was played here by the Boston Symphony Orchestra on January 21, 1897.

THE WEEKLY CALENDAR—NEWS NOTES, PROGRAMMES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The local musical calendar for the current week is as follows:

Sunday—Metropolitan Opera House, 8 p. m., popular concert under the direction of Walter Damrosch.

Monday—Metropolitan Opera House, 8 p. m., German opera—"Die Walküre," Astoria, 8 p. m., Ninth-musical piano forte recital by W. H. Barber.

The South Church, 3 p. m., free organ recital, by Gerrit Smith; American Theatre, 8 p. m., English opera, "Cavallerie Rusticana" and "Pinafore."

Tuesday—Staten Island Academy, St. George, 4 p. m., lecture on "Shakespeare's Songs and Dances" by H. E. Krehbiel; Hardman Hall, 12.30 p. m., musical play recital, by Dr. Frank Landau Humphreys; Mendelsohn Hall, 2.30 p. m., amateur piano forte recital by the Kneisel Quartet.

Wednesday—All Saints' Church, 3 p. m., special musical service, Madison Square Garden Concert Hall, 4 p. m., concert by Ethelbert Nevin, of his own composition, afternoon, and by the Women's Choral Society, Hayden House, 8 p. m., public rehearsal of the Haarlem Philharmonic Society.

Thursday—Metropolitan Opera House, 8.15 p. m., concert of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Waldorf-Astoria, 8.30 p. m., concert of the Royal Philharmonic Hall, 3 p. m., lecture on "Church Music in England," by the Rev. Dr. Frank Landau Humphreys; Mendelsohn Hall, 2.30 p. m., concert of chamber music by the Kneisel Quartet.

Friday—Metropolitan Opera House, 8 p. m., opera, "Die Walküre," Astoria, 8 p. m., musical play recital by the Rev. Dr. Frank Landau Humphreys; Mendelsohn Hall, 2.30 p. m., concert of the Royal Philharmonic Hall, 3 p. m., concert by Richard Hagemann.

Saturday—Metropolitan Opera House, 8.15 p. m., concert of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Waldorf-Astoria, 8.30 p. m., concert of the Haarlem Philharmonic Society.

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THE MUSICAL MATTERS.

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THE GOOD IN PUBLIC, BUT A TERROR AT HOME.

A STRANGE TALE OF A BOY CRIPPLE TOLD BY MAGISTRATE CORNELL.

Evan Hayes, fifteen years old, a boy with a kindly face, but with only one arm and one eye, was arraigned in the West Side Police Court yesterday morning on the complaint of his mother, who said that though the boy appeared to be a model in public and in Sunday-school, he was "a terror" at home, and she feared for his life. Since the boy had his arm cut off in an operation six months ago, she told the Magistrate, his temperament had changed wholly. He had at numberless times threatened her life and the life of her elder son, Joseph. Last week he threw a kettle of scalding water on Joseph, severely injuring him, and threatened her with a hatchet. The boy is a member of the Christian Alliance Church, at Eighty-eighth and Thirty-fourth, Dr. Simpson, the pastor of the church, having given the boy a Bible for good conduct, and says that he is a model boy. He also attends Grammar School at Thirty-fifth and Nineteenth, where he is said to be a bright and well-conducted boy.

Magistrate Cornell asked the boy why he did not behave himself, and he said nothing. The Magistrate asked Mrs. Hayes to get some more witnesses and gave the boy into the care of the Gerry Society.

THE VALUE OF SERVICE MEDALS.

THEY ARE MARKS OF DISTINCTION FOR LONG AND FAITHFUL SERVICE IN THE NATIONAL GUARD.

Medals for long and faithful service are being distributed at appropriate ceremony in the various armories at this time, and the officer who performs the pleasant duty usually calls attention to the value of the decoration. Ex-Inspecter-General McCrae inspected the 2d Separate Company at Midtown last Tuesday evening. Before making the presentation of medals he said:

"When one enlists in the National Guard and completes the contract period, he receives a full and honorable discharge. This loses to the State a soldier who has had experience. If he remains in the service or re-enlists the State is a gainer and retains a soldier who has experience and is valuable. It is evidently proper that the Government should in some degree show its appreciation to those who continue beyond their first enlistment. The inception of the decoration for long and faithful service given to the service is not a modern idea;

it is a well-known fact that the British government gives marks of distinction to the men who have served in the army for long periods of time, and the same is done in this country. The decoration is a mark of honor, and it is a mark of distinction, and it is a mark of honor to the State, and it is a mark of honor to the individual soldier."

Friday afternoon, Brooklyn Academy of Music—Overture, "Ruy Blas," Mendelsohn.

Beethoven's "Egmont," (for violin) ... C. M. Loeser.

Romance in F minor, "Tristan und Isolde," ... T. Adamowski.

Symphony No. 6, "Pastorale," ... Beethoven.

Suite, "Sylvia," ... Delibes.

Saturday evening, Brooklyn Academy of Music—Prelude, "Die Meistersinger," ... Wagner.

Fantastic concerto for violin and orchestra ... Wagner.

Divertissement in A minor for violin and orchestra ... C. M. Loeser.

Symphony No. 5, "Pathétique," ... Tchaikovsky.

Symphony No. 6, "Il Trovatore," ... Verdi.

Symphony No. 7, "Pathétique," ... Tchaikovsky.

Symphony No. 8, "La Chiarina," ... Glinka.

New-York Symphony Orchestra.

THE CALENDARS FOR MONDAY.

Appalacian Division—Supreme Court—Recess until Tues. Feb. 15, at 1 p. m.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part I—Before Foyr, J.—Cases for trial, 10 a. m.; cases for trial, 10.30 a. m.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part II—Before Bleischoff, J.—Cases for trial, 10 a. m.; cases for trial, 10.30 a. m.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part III—Before Kellogg, J.—Cases for trial, 10 a. m.; cases for trial, 10.30 a. m.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part IV—Before Freed, J.—Cases for trial, 10 a. m.; cases for trial, 10.30 a. m.

Supreme Court—Special Term—Part V—Before Dodge, J.—Cases for trial, 10 a. m.; cases for trial, 10.30 a. m.